Table 9: Duties of Magistrate Judges

Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge—How does the court encourage parties to consent to trial before a magistrate judge?

Duties of Magistrate Judges—What are the duties of magistrate judges? Have they expanded?

Other—Are there other relevant provisions?

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
M.D. Ala.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	Every civil case is assigned to a district judge and a magistrate judge. If consent to trial before a magistrate judge is given, the magistrate judge takes over. If consent is not given, all nondispositive motions are referred to the magistrate judge and the magistrate judge manages the pretrial discovery phase. Magistrate judges are also assigned all prisoner and Social Security cases for a report and recommendation and they serve as evaluators in the early neutral evaluation program.	
N.D. Ala.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA	As recommended by the Advisory Group, the court requested that the appropriate Judicial Conference committee undertake a study to determine whether an additional magistrate judge position is warranted. The committee did not approve an additional person.
S.D. Ala.	IA	IA	The court will continue to use magistrate judges to the fullest extent allowed.
	Loc. R. 26 (Revised 1/90)	Loc. R. 26 (Revised 1/90)	Loc. R. 26 (Revised 1/90)

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
D. Alaska	IA Loo B. 2.1 (1/2/05)	The court will make greater use of discovery masters, including assigning this role to a magistrate judge.	The court will take these actions: upgrade the Anchorage part-time magistrate judge to full-time status; and ask the Advisory Group to investigate further the perception that magistrate judges' rulings are processed differently from those of other judicial officers.
D. Ariz.	Loc. R. 3.1 (1/3/95) The court will encourage the use of magistrate judges as trial judges, consistent with their availability.	Magistrate judges' duties are substantially petty offenses, felony pretrial matters, discovery matters, prisoner cases, pro se litigation, and settlement conferences.	
E.D. Ark.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Loc. R. F-1 (5/1/80; Revised 1/2/90)	Magistrate judges will handle the referral of pretrial matters by district judges. Loc. R. F-1 (5/1/80: Revised 1/2/90)	On an experimental basis, all civil cases will be randomly assigned to magistrate and district judges. If the parties agree, the magistrate judge will handle all aspects of a case, including trial.
W.D. Ark.	IA	Loc. R. F-1 (5/1/80; Revised 1/2/90)	
W.D. AIK.	IA IA	IA I	
	Loc. R. F-1 (5/80; Revised 1/90)	Loc. R. F-1 (5/80; Revised 1/90)	
C.D. Cal.	IA	IA	
E.D. Cal.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 305(a) (10/84; Revised 5/91) Loc. R. 240(a)(8) (10/84; Revised 5/91)	Loc. R. 302 (10/84; Revised 5/91)	
N.D. Cal.	Jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is discussed at the case management conference. General Order 34 § VIII C (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94) General Order 34 § IX C (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94) General Order 34 § X C (1/1/92; Revised 1/1/93, 12/1/93, 1/18/94)	Loc. R. 400-1 Loc. R. 400-2 Loc. R. 405 Loc. R. 410 Loc. R. 415 Loc. R. 240-1	
S.D. Cal.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	Magistrate judges manage all pretrial activity, as a judicial officer.	
D. Colo.	IA	Magistrate judges handle criminal proceedings and are paired with designated judges in processing civil cases.	If all parties consent, a magistrate judge may conduct a summary jury trial or any other form of ADR procedure.
		Loc. R. 72.2 (Revised 4/15/94) Loc. R. 72.3 (Revised 4/15/94)	Loc. R. 72.1 (Revised 4/15/94)

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
D. Conn.	IA	IA	IA
	Standing Order Regarding Trial Memoranda in Civil Cases (1986) Notice to Counsel in Civil Cases (1986)	Loc. R. 1. Local Rules for Magistrate Judges Loc. R. 4. Local Rules for Magistrate Judges	
D. Del.	IA	Loc. R. 72 (Revised 1/95) Loc. R. 73 (Revised 1/95)	Judges should retain the responsibility for habeas corpus and Social Security cases. These cases are currently referred to magistrate judges. If this is not possible, the court should divide habeas corpus and prisoner cases between judges and magistrates.
D.D.C.	The court will seek to educate the bar on the possibility of proceeding before a magistrate judge for all purposes in civil cases. Counsel are required to discuss at the meet and confer conference whether or not the case can be assigned to a magistrate judge for all purposes, including trial.	Magistrate judges will retain primary responsibility for considering petitions by persons to open adoption records of the court pursuant to Loc. R. 501.	
	Loc. R. 502(a) Loc. R. 502(b) Loc. R. 206(c)(3) (3/1/94)		
M.D. Fla.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA	
	Loc. R. 6.05 (7/1/84; Revised 2/1/94)	Loc. R. 6.01 (7/1/84; Revised 1/1/92)	
N.D. Fla.	IA	The magistrate judges are assigned criminal misdemeanor, noncriminal petty, and prisoner cases, and handle initial appearances and detention matters in criminal cases.	
	Loc. R. 24(E) (Revised 84) Loc. R. 16.1(B) (Proposed) Loc. R. 72.1(C) (Proposed)	Loc. R. 24 (Revised 84) Loc. R. 25 (Revised 84) Loc. R. 72.1(A) (Proposed) Loc. R. 72.2 (Proposed) Loc. R. 72.3 (Proposed) Standing Order (1988) Standing Order (7/94)	
S.D. Fla.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	The Civil Case Assignment System procedures are designed to encourage the development of specialized expertise in particular areas of law by magistrate judges. Generally, all civil cases will continue to be randomly assigned to both a district judge and magistrate judge under the blind assignment system currently in use. The chief judge, after consultation with the other judges of	The Civil Case Assignment System procedures are designed to allocate the work of the district equitably among all district judges and magistrate judges.

Table 9: Duties of Magistrate Judges

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
		the court, will by 12/1/91, appoint a committee to consider whether criminal cases in the southern division of the district should be assigned directly to certain magistrate judges and whether certain civil actions, such as Social Security, ERISA, forfeitures, employment discrimination, or other appropriate types of civil cases, should be assigned directly to certain magistrate judges.	
M.D. Ga.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 12.4 (6/2/93)	Loc. R. 12 (6/2/93)	
N.D. Ga.	The uniform preliminary statement will be revised to include a provision whereby parties can indicate their willingness to be tried before a magistrate judge.	IA Loc. R. 260-1(b) Loc. R. 260-2(a) Loc. R. 260-2(b) Loc. R. 260-3 Loc. R. 260-4 Loc. R. 260-5 Loc. R. 260-6 Loc. R. 920-2	
S.D. Ga.	IA	Magistrate judges handle all discovery disputes. (PD)	
D. Guam	IA	Loc. R. 6.4 (1/82); Renumbered Loc. R. 7.2	The District of Guam does not have a magistrate judge at this time.
D. Haw.	The clerk will provide notification to parties of Fed. R. Civ. P. 73 and Loc. R. 403-2(a). (PD)	The magistrate judges conduct settlement conferences. (PD) Loc. R. 401-5 (11/91) Loc. R. 401-6 (11/91)	Magistrate judges will evaluate the impact of U.S. military traffic and other cases on the docket.
D. Idaho	IA	IA General Order 98 (effective 11/1/93)	The court will continue to use the magistrate judges to the fullest extent allowed by statute.
C.D. Ill.	The court will explore with counsel at the final pretrial conference the possibility of consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA Loc. R. 1.4 (1/92)	
N.D. III.	PD	The court has used magistrate judges as special masters in cases with contentious discovery disputes.	The court proposes to amend Loc. Gen. R. 1.72B to allow assignment to magistrates a portion of a proceeding, such as ruling on dispositive motions with the consent of all parties, rather than just the entire proceeding.
S.D. III.	IA	IA	

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District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
		Loc. R. 25 (10/80; Revised 7/90, 3/94)	
N.D. Ind.	IA	The court declined to refer bankruptcy appeals to magistrate judges, even by consent.	The court will consider a blanket reference to magistrate judges of proceedings under the Federal Debt Collections Procedures Act (28 U.S.C. § 3001) The experiences will be reported to the Advisory Group by 10/1/92.
S.D. Ind.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 72.1	Loc. R. 72.1 Loc. R. 72.3 Loc. R. 72.4 Loc. R. 72.5	
N.D. Iowa	IA	IA	
S.D. Iowa	The district and magistrate judges will continue to advise parties that they may consent to proceed before the magistrate judges.	Full-time magistrate judges are encouraged to pursue further study and training in ADR techniques.	The magistrate judges will continue to implement and evaluate a pilot project for expediting prisoner litigation. The magistrate judges are also directed to propose a pilot project for selection of cases for in-person meetings between counsel and parties to discuss ADR alternatives.
D. Kan.	IA	IA	To facilitate better communication between district and magistrate judges, the court contemplates that each division office will institute a practice that district and magistrate judges meet on a frequent and regular basis to discuss cases in which case management responsibilities are shared and otherwise facilitate the efficient and effective management of the civil caseload.
ED V	Loc. R. 603(a)(1)	TA	
E.D. Ky.	IA	IA	
WD K	TA	Loc. R. 18	
W.D. Ky.	IA	IA	
ED I	Loc. R. 18	Loc. R. 18	
E.D. La.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 19.03E	Loc. R. 19.01E–19.12E (5/89; Revised 4/94)	
M.D. La.	IA Loc. R. 19.02M	Magistrate judges may conduct pretrial conferences and settlement conferences.	
	Loc. R. 19.02B2	Loc. R. 19	

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
W.D. La.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 19.03M (5/89; Revised 4/92)	Loc. R. 19.01M (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.01W (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.02W (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.04M (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.04W (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.05M (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.05W (5/89; Revised 4/92) Loc. R. 19.08M (5/89; Revised 4/92)	
D 14	Loc. R. 19.03W (5/89; Revised 4/92)	Loc. R. 19.08W (5/89; Revised 4/92)	
D. Me.	Consent to trial before a magistrate judge is discussed at the scheduling conference for cases on the standard and complex tracks. Loc. R. 2(d)	IA	
	Loc. R. 17(b)(5)	I D 2()()	
D MJ	Loc. R. 17(c)(4)	Loc. R. 2(a)(c)	
D. Md.	IA	IA IA	
		Loc. R. 301	
D. Mass.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 16.1	Rules 1 and 5 of the Rules for Magistrate Judges in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.	
E.D. Mich.	IA	Loc. R. 72.1(a)(2)(A)–(T) Loc. R. 72.1(b)–(d)	Upon request of counsel, the court will encourage involvement of magistrate judges in mediation of discovery disputes. The court rejected an Advisory Group recommendation that magistrate judges be permitted to conduct civil jury trials.
W.D. Mich.	IA	IA	
D 16	7	Loc. R. 11	
D. Minn.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA	
	Loc. R. 72.1(g) (2/91)	Loc. R. 72.1(a) (2/91)	
N.D. Miss.	The possibility of jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is discussed by counsel during the preparation of the joint case management plan.	IA DOC	
CD W.	The state of the s	Loc. R. 8(i)	
S.D. Miss.	The possibility of jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is discussed by counsel during the preparation of the joint case management plan.	IA	

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
E.D. Mo.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge through the random assignment of civil cases to either a district or magistrate judge. Parties assigned to a magistrate judge may opt for trial before a district judge.	All civil cases will be randomly assigned to district and magistrate judges; district judges will carry a caseload of less than 400 cases and magistrate judges will carry a caseload of less than 200 cases. Litigants assigned to a magistrate judge will be able to opt for trial before a district judge.	
W.D. Mo.	IA	IA	
D. Mont.	Administrative Directive 7 (6/94) Every magistrate judge may be included in the automatic or discretionary assignment of cases. If the parties object to the magistrate, they must file a timely petition to have the case reassigned to a district judge.		Each district judge will develop a civil case assignment plan for magistrate judges that includes automatic assignment of some civil cases to magistrate judges and assignment of civil cases to magistrate judges for the supervision of pretrial matters.
D. Neb.	Loc. R. 105-2(d) In Omaha, the court will consider including magistrate judges in the civil case assignment rotation with a provision permitting either party to request reassignment of the case to a district judge. Loc. R. 73.2 (Revised 1/93)	Loc. R. 400-1 IA Loc. R. 72.1–72.2 (Revised 1/93) Loc. R. 73.1 (Revised 1/93)	
D. Nev.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. (PD)	IA Loc. R. 500 Loc. R. 505 Loc. R. 510	
D.N.H.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Loc. R. 42 (5/69; Revised 1/85)	The court will explore magistrate judge involvement in any future ADR program, although the court has not accepted any formal program as of yet other than the possibility of summary jury trial. If summary jury trials are used, it is expected that the magistrate judges will conduct them. Rules for the Magistrate's Duties in the United States District Court at Concord for the District of New Hampshire	Magistrate judges will also serve as backup trial judges; this possibility and consent will be discussed at the pretrial conference.
D.N.J.	IA Gen. R. 15B.5 (12/91)	IA Gen. R. 40A.4 (10/84; Revised 12/91, 6/92) Gen. R. 40B Gen. R. 40C	IA
D.N.M.	IA	Magistrate judges are authorized by local rule to hold pretrial conferences in any case referred to them.	

Table 9: Duties of Magistrate Judges

In every civil case filed on or after 2/1/92, the parties will be advised that they may be given a trial date certain if they consent to trial before a	In every civil case filed on or after 2/1/92, the	
magistrate judge.	magistrate judge assigned to try a case will be the same as initially selected. However, if any party objects, another magistrate judge may be randomly selected. The parties must accept this second random assignment.	
	Standing Order 4	
To avoid postponement of trial dates, the parties are given the option of having the case tried by an available magistrate judge.	Magistrate judges will conduct all discovery conferences, hear all discovery motions, and have authority to use discretion in changing discovery deadlines.	The clerk will assign all cases to both a district and a magistrate judge, both of whom have the authority to design and issue a case management order.
General Order 25	Loc. R. 72.1–72.3	Loc. R. 72.3(a)
IA	A magistrate judge will be assigned to each case. At the option of the assigned judge or in the event of that judge's unavailability, magistrate judges should handle inter alia the resolution of pretrial discovery issues.	
Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Parties will be notified within 10 days of filing of this option.	Every civil case will be assigned to a district judge and a magistrate judge. The magistrate judge will determine all issues involving discovery and nondispositive motions. The district judge may also refer any pretrial matter to the magistrate judge.	
	Loc. R. 29	
The scheduling order for prisoner cases will offer the parties the option of consenting to magistrate judge jurisdiction.	Loc. R. 30 A magistrate judge will be assigned to a civil case when the district judge is selected and, unless circumstances require otherwise, all nondispositive motions, hearings, and conferences will be assigned to that magistrate judge. In addition, if the attorney or pro se party believes that early judicial intervention would be advantageous, the clerk's office will refer the case to a magistrate judge for review and possible implementation of special case management techniques.	
	To avoid postponement of trial dates, the parties are given the option of having the case tried by an available magistrate judge. Loc. R. 72.2(b) General Order 25 IA Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Parties will be notified within 10 days of filing of this option. The scheduling order for prisoner cases will offer the parties the option of consenting to magistrate	randomly selected. The parties must accept this second random assignment. Civ. R. 45 Standing Order 4 Magistrate judges will conduct all discovery conferences, hear all discovery motions, and have authority to use discretion in changing discovery deadlines. Loc. R. 72.2(b) General Order 25 IA Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Parties will be notified within 10 days of filing of this option. Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge. Parties will be notified within 10 days of filing of this option. Every civil case will be assigned to a district judge and a magistrate judge. The magistrate judge will determine all issues involving discovery and nondispositive motions. The district judge may also refer any pretrial matter to the magistrate judge. Loc. R. 29 Loc. R. 29 Loc. R. 30 A magistrate judge will be assigned to a civil case when the district judge is selected and, unless circumstances require otherwise, all nondispositive motions, hearings, and conferences will be assigned to that magistrate judge. In addition, if the attorney or pro se party believes that early judicial intervention would be advantageous, the clerk's office will refer the case to a magistrate judge for review and possible implementation of special case management

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D:	Encouragement to Consent to Trial	D.: 637 1	04
District	Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
M.D.N.C.	IA	A magistrate judge may assist with the master calendar, although no case may be referred to a magistrate judge without the consent of the parties.	
	Loc. R. 203, Forms 1 and 2	magistrate judge without the consent of the parties.	
W.D.N.C.	Magistrate judges are assigned as trial judges to civil cases. Any party may elect, in writing, to exercise their right to trial by a district judge. The provision must be exercised in writing within 10 days of the filing of the last required pleading.	IA	
D.N.D.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	The court will continue the extensive utilization of magistrate judges in both the pretrial and trial phases of civil cases.	
D. N. Mar. I.	IA	IA	
N.D. Ohio	Consent to a magistrate judge is determined during the case management conference.	IA Loc. R. 5:1.1 (1/1/92; Revised 3/3/93, 8/10/93)	
S.D. Ohio	The district judges will continue to communicate with litigants and the bar about the benefits of consent to trial before a magistrate judge. The court will, as resources permit, publish a pamphlet setting forth the nature of the magistrate judge consent system and professional and biographical information about each of the incumbent magistrate judges of this court.	Loc. R. 72.1 (10/91) Loc. R. 72.2 (10/91) Loc. R. 72.3 (10/91) Various general orders	
E.D. Okla.	IA	IA	
N.D. Okla.	When parties consent to trial before a magistrate judge, they will be given a special trial setting on a date certain. Loc. R. 72.1 Loc. R. 56.1(F) Loc. R. 73.1	It is the policy of this court to fully use magistrate judges in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 636(b)(1)(A) and 636(b)(1)(B) as interpreted by policy statements originating from the Judicial Conference of the United States. Magistrate judges' duties include Social Security appeals, prisoner litigation requiring evidentiary hearings, advisory hearings for bankruptcy appeals, and general referral of discovery motions.	
	Loc. R. 73.1 Loc. R. 73.2	Loc. R. 72.1	

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
W.D. Okla.	Counsel are to discuss consent options prior to the status/scheduling conference and indicate a decision in their status report. Loc. R. 17, Civil Status and Scheduling Conferences; Management (9/1/82; Revised 2/7/83, 5/20/83, 8/11/86, 12/31/91, 6/15/93, 4/20/94)	Prisoner and Social Security cases will be routinely referred to a magistrate judge. Settlement conferences will ordinarily be held before a magistrate judge.	
D. Or.	Consent forms will be issued at the time of filing, and the consent issue will be discussed at subsequent status conferences and the final pretrial conference.	All applications for arrest, attachment and/or seizure, filed pursuant to supplemental rules of certain admiralty and maritime claims or as otherwise provided for by law or statute, will be referred to any available magistrate judge for review and due process consideration. If a magistrate judge is unavailable, the matter will be referred to the civil duty judge.	Objections to an order of arrest, attachment, and/or seizure issued by the magistrate judge will be referred to the assigned district judge or backup district judge. If the backup district judge resolves the objection, the case will then be returned to the assigned magistrate judge for all further proceedings.
E.D. Pa.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 7(III)(b)	Loc. R. 7(I)	
M.D. Pa.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA Local Rules, Chapter X Loc. R. 72.1–72.42 (Revised 11/88)	
W.D. Pa.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 72.1.5D (10/93)	Loc. R. 72.1–72.1.8 (10/93)	
D.P.R.	The court will inform parties, through routine communication from the clerk of court, that they may consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	Magistrate judges are responsible for the major share of Social Security cases, federal and state habeas corpus petitions, and many pretrial procedures such as telephone conferences and motions for extensions of time. Magistrate judges may also select juries and conduct trials.	To better use magistrate judges, the court will work to improve contact between district and magistrate judges, more effectively use magistrate judge resources, and make greater efforts to educate the practicing bar about the work that magistrate judges may perform.
D.R.I.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA Loc. R. 32	
D.S.C.	The court's voluntary expedited docket will use magistrate judges.	IA	
	Loc. R. 19.03	Loc. R. 19.01 (12/1/94) Loc. R. 19.02 (12/1/94) Loc. R. 19.03 (12/1/94)	
D.S.D.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	Magistrate judges conduct settlement conferences, handle pretrial case management, and assist with discovery.	

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
E.D. Tenn.	Within 20 days after the appearance of the defendant, plaintiff's counsel will file with the clerk either a statement certifying that counsel have conferred but do not consent to jurisdiction by a magistrate judge, or the signed Consent to Proceed Before a United States Magistrate, Election of Appeal to a District Judge, and Order of Reference. If a district judge cannot hold a civil trial on the previously set date, the judge will inform counsel of that fact and of their right to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	Loc. R. 72.2	With the imprimatur of the district judge to whom the case is assigned, parties may consent to the final resolution and entry of judgment on a dispositive motion by a magistrate judge.
M.D. Tenn.	IA Loc. R. 11(d)(1)(c)(b)(j) (3/94)	Magistrate judges are randomly assigned to civil cases. They may serve as civil case managers for all pretrial matters, handle referred dispositive motions, and conduct settlement conferences. Magistrate judges are also assigned prisoner cases, Title VII cases, and Social Security cases. Loc. R. 11(c)(1) (3/94) Loc. R. 11(f)(1)(a) Local Rules Governing Duties of and Proceedings Before Magistrate Judges	
W.D. Tenn.	Parties are encouraged to consent to trial before a magistrate judge	The court will refer motions to compel and other discovery motions to magistrate judges for prompt judicial disposition.	
	Loc. R. 20(d) (Revised 1/93)	Loc. R. 20 (Revised 1/93)	
E.D. Tex.	IA	IA Loc. R. 15 (10/87; Revised 1/94)	
N.D. Tex.	The court will increase its emphasis on encouraging parties to consent to trial before a magistrate judge.	IA Loc. R. 1.3 (3/78)	
S.D. Tex.	IA	IA	Consistent with the criminal and civil assignments currently in place, each district judge in the Houston Division will assign 5 to 10% of new civil case filings to his/her assigned magistrate judge for handling of all pretrial responsibilities, including, with consent of the parties, disposition. District judges will attempt to maintain about 50 civil cases under the supervision of each magistrate judge in these divisions. District judges in 5 of the court's divisions will not be affected, but are encouraged to maximize utilization of magistrate judges in the civil area where feasible.

Table 9: Duties of Magistrate Judges

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
W.D. Tex.	At the time of entry of the scheduling order, the judge will notify the parties of the option of consenting to trial by magistrate judge.	Whenever possible, nondispositive motions, including discovery motions, will be referred to magistrate judges for disposition.	
D. Utah	IA	The judge can designate a magistrate to conduct the initial status and scheduling conference.	
D. Vt.	The clerk's office will notify the parties in Social Security cases, at the time the government files its answer, encouraging them to consent to a decision by the magistrate judge. The clerk's office will notify parties, on the date set in the discovery order for completion of discovery, that they can request a pretrial conference with the magistrate judge and that they can consent to a trial before the magistrate judge at a time certain.	IA Gen. R. 2 Loc. R. P. 1	Until the bar relations subcommittee is able to solicit assistance from the bar for pro se prisoners, the magistrate judge should send a letter to members of the district bar asking their assistance in providing representation to pro se prisoners in appropriate cases.
D.V.I.	IA	IA	
		Loc. R. 72.1 (7/21/92; Revised 2/3/93)	
E.D. Va.	IA	IA	The court's efforts to fully use magistrate judges predate the CJRA.
W.D. Va.	Parties may give partial consent for pretrial matters to be decided by a magistrate judge. A magistrate judge's rulings are only appealable to the circuit court.	The district judge may designate a magistrate judge to conduct pretrial supervision.	
E.D. Wash.	IA	The court will assign more prisoner rights cases to the magistrate judges if their calendars permit. Loc. Mag. R. 1 Loc. Mag. R. 2	
	Loc. Mag. R. 12	Loc. Mag. R. 3 Loc. Mag. R. 4 Loc. Mag. R. 8 Loc. Mag. R. 9	
W.D. Wash.	The court will take reasonable steps to increase the number of parties consenting to trial before a magistrate judge.	Magistrate judges will conduct summary trials.	
N.D. W. Va.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 4.01	Loc. R. 4.01	

District	Encouragement to Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge	Duties of Magistrate Judges	Other
S.D. W. Va.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 6.03 Loc. R. Mag. J. 3.03	Loc. R. Mag. J. 1.01 Loc. R. Mag. J. 1.02	
E.D. Wis.	Parties are encourage to consent to trial before a magistrate judge in the hope that increased efficiency in the processing of criminal cases will lead to increased time for civil cases. The court will further delegate responsibility for pretrial management of criminal cases to magistrate judges.	Magistrate judges have the responsibility of presiding over settlement conferences. District judges will no longer expect written decisions from magistrate judges on boilerplate motions that are routinely filed in criminal cases. Loc. R. 13.01 Loc. R. 13.02 Loc. R. 13.03 Loc. R. 13.04 Loc. R. 13.05	Except in the most unusual of circumstances, no dispositive motions will be referred to magistrate judges for recommendations. This practice simply results in two layers of decision making and further delay.
W.D. Wis.	Loc. R. 4.01 Parties and counsel will be notified in writing by the clerk's office that they may consent to the	Loc. R. 13.06 IA	
	disposition of a civil case by a magistrate judge.	Loc. R. 2	
D. Wyo.	IA	IA	
	Loc. R. 73(b) (11/92)	Loc. R. 72 (11/92) Loc. R. 73 (11/92)	